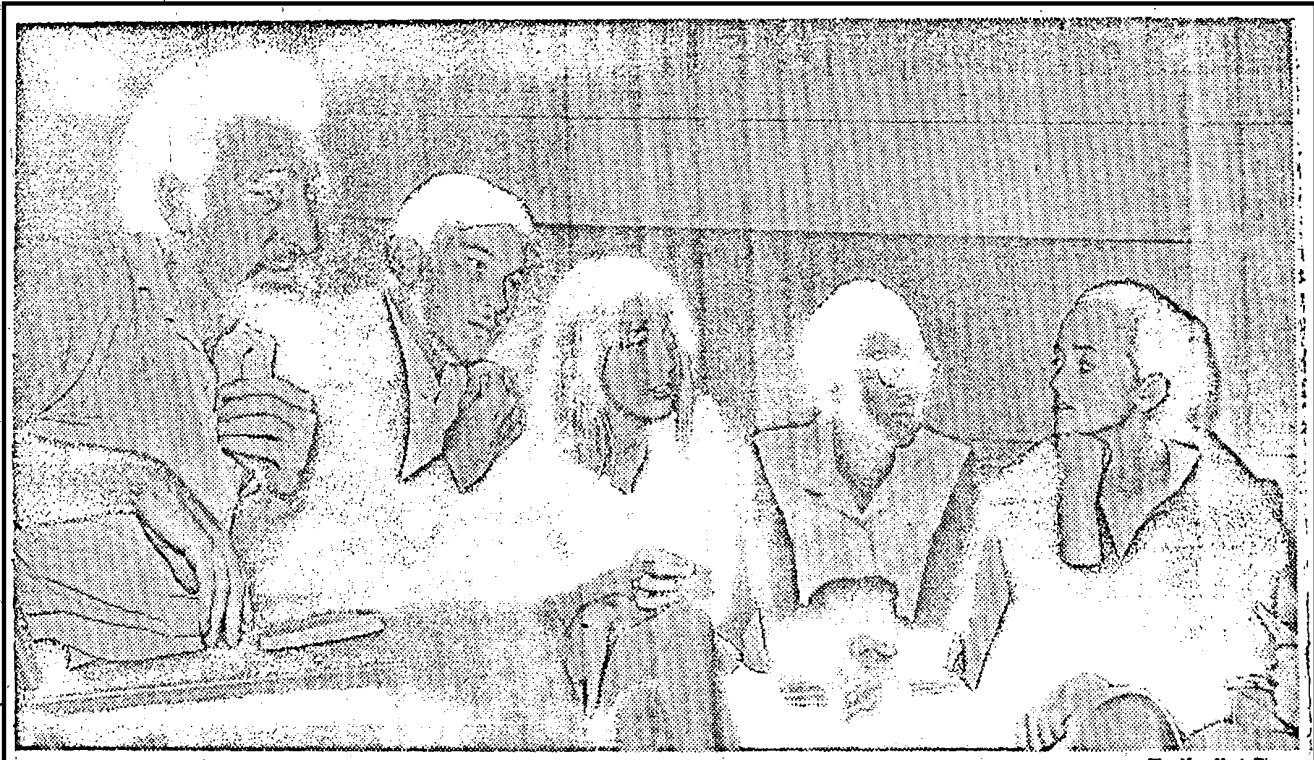


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**ENTHUSIASTIC OVER CUBA:** Five Americans, who recently returned from a two-month, expenses-paid tour of Cuba, during interview here. From left are: Manuel Colon, Pieter Clark, Susan Rotolo, Shirley Stoute and Arlene Cohen.

## U.S. Youths, Back From Cuba, Laud Life There

By ARNOLD H. LUBASCH

Five young Americans who defied a State Department ban on travel to Cuba have returned here with a glowing account of the freedom, education, brotherhood and solidarity they said they saw throughout a two-month Cuban visit.

Their motivation for going to Cuba was a desire to challenge the travel ban and see the country for themselves, they said in an interview yesterday. They were among 84 students and former students who visited Cuba at the invitation of the Cuban Federation of University Students and at the expense of the Cuban Government.

The State Department, which maintains a policy of trying to isolate Cuba, bars all United States citizens from visiting Cuba except newsmen and others who are granted specially validated passports.

The five characterized themselves as "peace-loving liberals" and "everything from liberals to Communists but no members of the Communist party."

### 5 of Group That Defied Ban on Trip Assert Island's People Back Castro

"The thing that impressed me very much was the intense feeling of solidarity of the Cuban people in support of the revolution and the fact that there was no racial discrimination in Cuba," Miss Shirley Stoute said.

#### U. S. Presence Assailed

Miss Stoute, a 32-year-old typist from Philadelphia, added that "the one thing I did not like about Cuba was the presence of the Guantanamo base owned by Yankee imperialism and the fact that American soldiers insult, murder and humiliate Cuban workers daily."

Mr. Colon described himself as a 33-year-old former student in New York and a member of the Pro-Independence Movement of Puerto Rico, which he said was dedicated to winning complete independence for his native Puerto Rico.

Everyone in Cuba feels "I am my brother's keeper" and the people feel a responsibility for one another, Mr. Colon observed. He added that "there is a continuous dialogue between the Government and the people."

Miss Arlene Cohen, a 23-year-old New Yorker who said she had recently completed graduate studies in literature at the University of Michigan, asserted that the Cuban people were enjoying excellent educational opportunities.

#### Freedom Is Praised

"The revolution has involved everyone," she maintained. "The future of the people is so full. There is absolute freedom to do what one wants."